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COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF 10-23 March 1953
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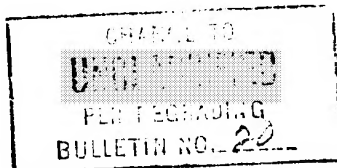
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SOURCE Monitored Broadcasts

CPW Report No. 77-A -- Inside USSR

(10 - 23 March 1953)

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SUMMARY

The radio output on themes other than those connected with Stalin's death returns to normal but such topics as unity, the friendship of peoples, the role of the Party, etc. get wider Home Service publicity than strictly non-political material. In agriculture, attention is focused on the inadequate current preparations for spring sowing, the poor performance of the livestock industry, technical breakdowns and lack of fodder. The recent merger of the 51 USSR Ministries into 25 enlarged Ministries (ukрупnenie ministerstva), the reduction of the seven Committees under the USSR Council of Ministers to two and the corresponding centralization of authority appear to be designed to streamline the entire State machinery for swift and sweeping action should the occasion demand it. In the case of agriculture, for example, drastic measures would seem to be imminent in view of the admitted mismanagement of the stock-breeding industry and the continued slow progress in the mechanization of labor processes.

The welfare theme, though still referred to infrequently in vague phraseology, claims comparatively more attention than in the past.

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